JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
MARCO FODERÀ
LEE LOUGHRIDGE
G.I. JOE
image
#12

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CODENAME:

G.I. JOE

[MISSION LOG [02.012.01]]

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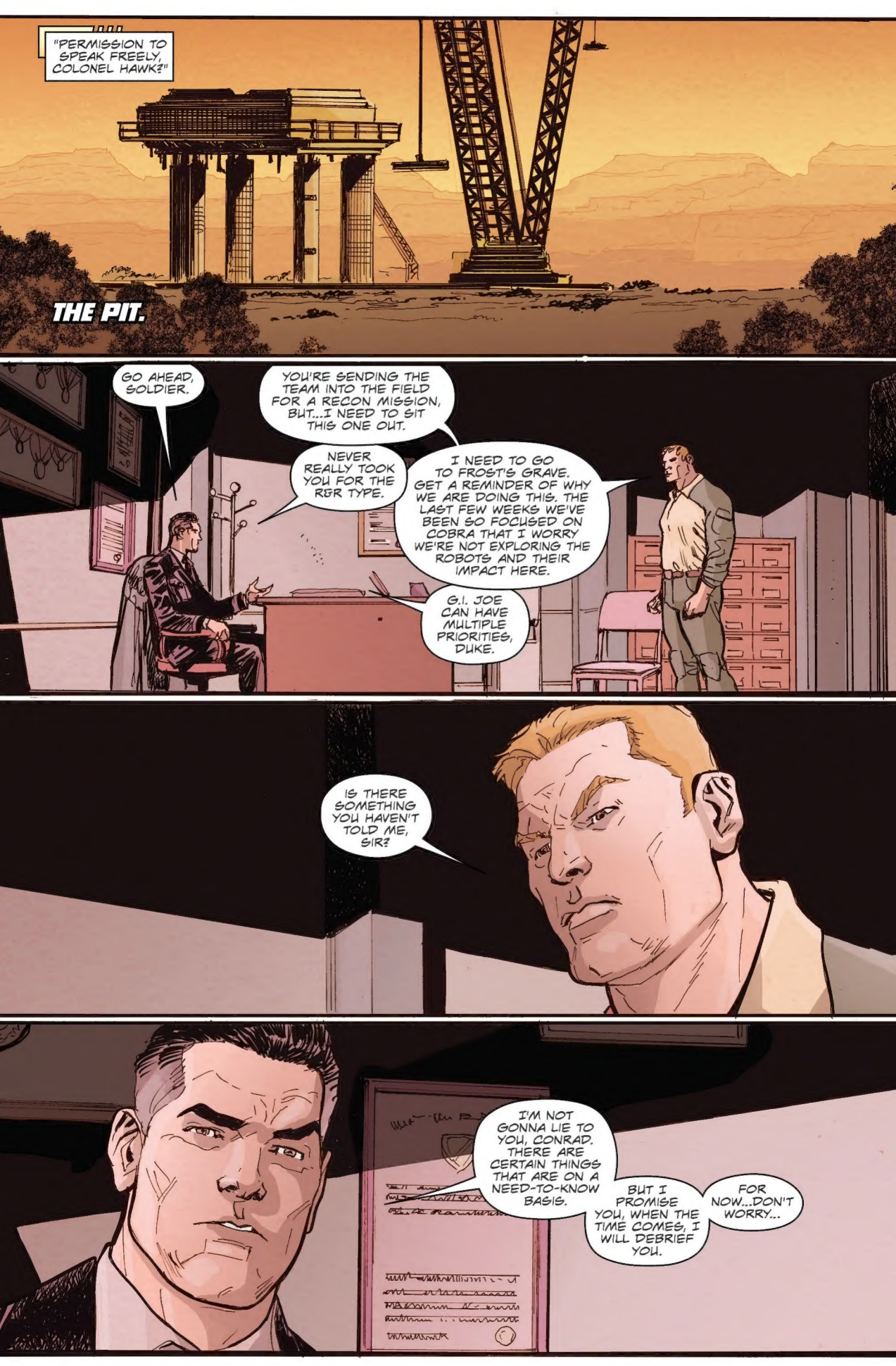

"PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY, COLONEL HAWK?"
THE PIT.
GO AHEAD, SOLDIER.
YOU'RE SENDING THE TEAM INTO THE FIELD FOR A RECON MISSION, BUT...I NEED TO SIT THIS ONE OUT.
NEVER REALLY TOOK YOU FOR THE R&R TYPE.
I NEED TO GO TO FROST'S GRAVE. GET A REMINDER OF WHY WE ARE DOING THIS. THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE'VE BEEN SO FOCUSED ON COBRA THAT I WORRY WE'RE NOT EXPLORING THE ROBOTS AND THEIR IMPACT HERE.
G.I. JOE CAN HAVE MULTIPLE PRIORITIES, DUKE.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME, SIR?
I'M NOT GONNA LIE TO YOU, CONRAD. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.
BUT I PROMISE YOU, WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL DEBRIEF YOU.
FOR NOW...DON'T WORRY...

DARKLONIA.

"...NOTHING IS HAPPENING WITH G.I. JOE WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE..."

GRENADIER LABOR CAMP.

ONE OF THE HARSHEST AND MEANEST PRISONS IN THE WORLD.

SECURITY IS GOING TO BE A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS. I CAN GET US A WINDOW TO GET HER IN AND OUT, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE TIGHT.

DESTRO PUT HIS COUSIN IN CHARGE OF A WHOLE COUNTRY. THAT'S GOING ABOUT AS WELL AS YOU'D EXPECT.

ALL HIS ENEMIES ARE LOCKED UP IN THERE.

INCLUDING OUR GIRL.

BETTER BE WORTH IT, FLINT.

HEY, SHOW SOME DAMN RESPECT, LADY JAYE.

I'VE BEEN ON A FEW MISSIONS WITH HER...AND THE REALITY IS...

"...NO ONE KNOWS HOW GOOD SHOOTER REALLY IS. ALL OF HER KILLS ARE CLASSIFIED.
"JODIE CRAIG IS A THREE-TIME OLYMPIAN. GOLD MEDALS IN MULTIPLE SHOOTING EVENTS.
"BUT THAT ISN'T THE THING SHE'S REALLY THE BEST AT.
"SHE'S A SNIPER.
"IMAGINE LIVING YOUR WHOLE LIFE KNOWING YOU'VE FIRED IMPOSSIBLE SHOTS TO SAVE LIVES, AND YOU CAN NEVER TELL ANYONE.
"NEVER TAKE CREDIT. NEVER BRAG.
"ONLY YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO.
"IT'S GOTTA BE LONELY."
BBBZZZZZZ

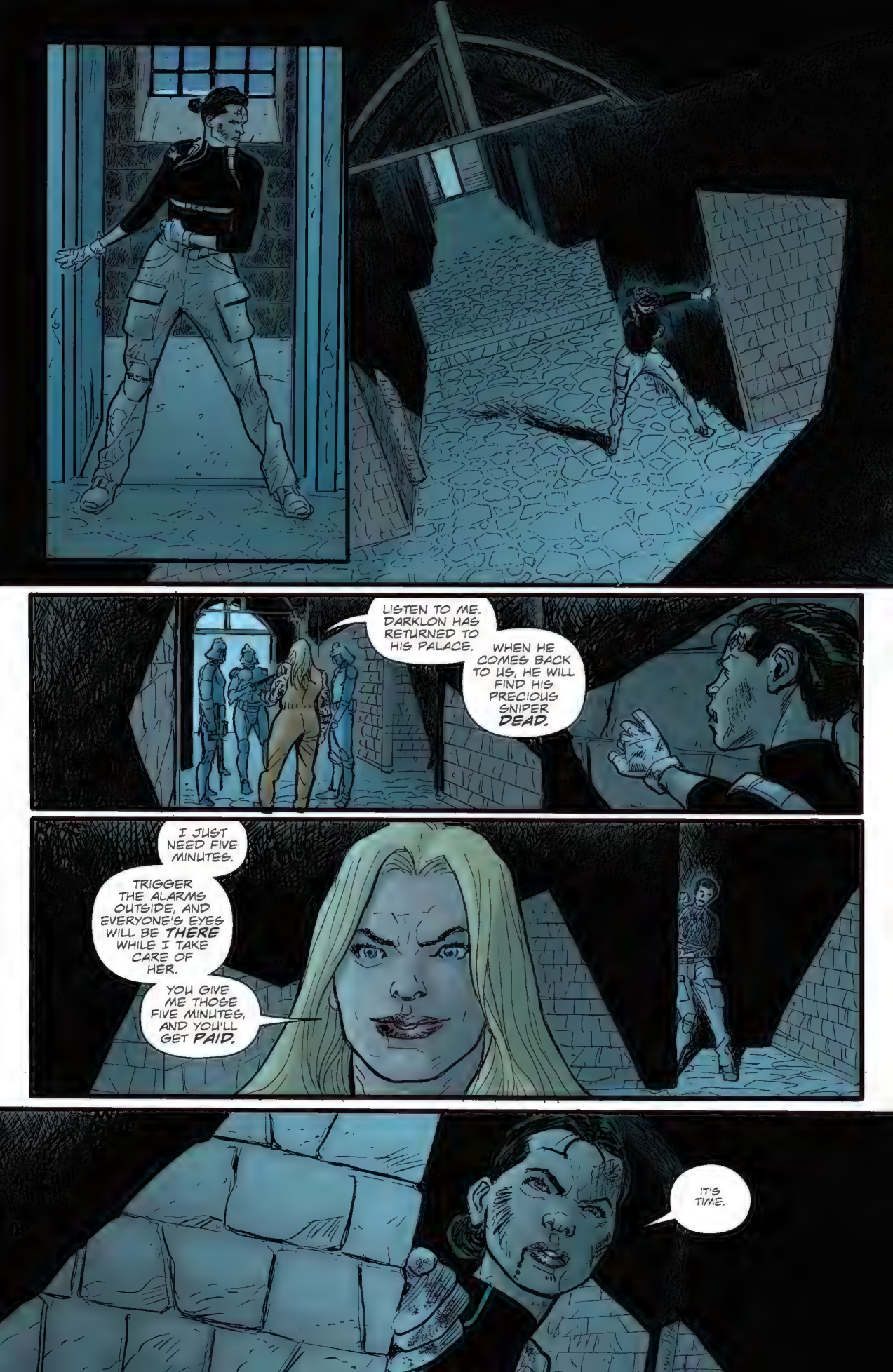
BZZZZZZ
BZZZZZZ
PK!
GET UP. IT'S TIME.
AGAIN.

YOU WILL KILL FOR ME.
YOU CAME INTO OUR COUNTRY ON A MISSION. I BELIEVE TO ASSASSINATE ME. YOU REFUSE TO TELL US YOUR TARGET, NO MATTER THE TORTURE WE SUBJECT YOU TO.
YOU WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE BEHIND MY WALLS.
HOWEVER, I WILL OFFER YOU YOUR FREEDOM.
YOU JUST NEED TO KILL SOMEONE FOR ME.
DO YOU ACCEPT?
NEVER.
-SIGH.- MAYBE TOMORROW WILL BE DIFFERENT.
IVANA? DO IT.

KLAK
WOW. YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL?
AND SO WILL YOU SOMEDAY, JODIE.
THUK!
STEADY. YOU GOTTA LEARN PATIENCE. FIND THE EXACT RIGHT WINDOW TO HIT YOUR TARGET.
SOOF
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FOLLOW MY PATH! I DON'T WANT YOU IN THE FIELD!
IT'S MY CHOICE!
TIME TO DIE.

ENOUGH.
TAKE HER BACK TO HER CELL, IVANA.
AS YOU WISH, LORD DARKLON.
YOU KNOW... I'M ALSO A KILLER LIKE YOU.
OVER THREE HUNDRED CONFIRMED KILLS.
SO HERE IS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
I PLAN TO VISIT YOU LATER AND HELP YOU. HELP GO TOWARD THE LIGHT.
AND THEN MAYBE DARKLON WILL GIVE ME THE DEAL TO KILL SOMEONE FOR HIM. AND I WILL GET THE FREEDOM YOU REJECT.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND, YOU STUPID @#$%?
SEE YOU SOON.
SLAM
I KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE, IVANA...
CLICK


LISTEN TO ME. DARKLON HAS RETURNED TO HIS PALACE.
WHEN HE COMES BACK TO US, HE WILL FIND HIS PRECIOUS SNIPER DEAD.
I JUST NEED FIVE MINUTES.
TRIGGER THE ALARMS OUTSIDE, AND EVERYONE'S EYES WILL BE THERE WHILE I TAKE CARE OF HER.
YOU GIVE ME THOSE FIVE MINUTES, AND YOU'LL GET PAID.
IT'S TIME.

DON'T.
THUD
STAND DOWN, SHOOTER...

BEACH HEAD?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SAVING YOUR BEHIND, LITTLE LADY.
I'M ON A MISSION. IT TOOK ME A FEW MONTHS OF BEING LOCKED UP HERE, BUT I FOUND MY OPENING.
I KNEW GETTING OUT WOULD BE THE HARD PART, BUT I DON'T NEED SAVING.
AND PEOPLE THINK I'M STUBBORN.
I WAS FOLLOWING ORDERS.
WELL, I'M HANDING YOU NEW ORDERS.
WE NEED TO GO NOW BEFORE THEY REALIZE YOU'RE GONE...
WOOOOOOOOOP

$@$#.
BANG BANG
DAMMIT, I SAID SET OFF THE ALARMS, NOT OPEN FIRE!
THE GUARDS ARE GOING TO BE ON US AS SOON AS THEY GET TO THE SNOW MOBILES.
I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.
SHE CAN'T ESCAPE!
NICE, BUT WE'RE STILL STUCK OUT HERE...
GOOD THING WE'RE NOT ALONE.
BOOM

WHO THE HELL SET OFF THE ALARMS?
WASN'T US!
GO, GO, GO.
WERE YOU SMART ENOUGH TO BRING MY GEAR?
ARE WE GOING TO HEAR A THANK YOU?
NOT YET.
IVANA HAS KILLED COUNTLESS INNOCENT PEOPLE. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE RECRUITED HER TO KILL AGAIN.
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
THAT YOURS?

IT WAS MY DAD'S.
THE WEIGHT OF IT HELPS KEEP ME STEADY...
HER CELL DOOR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I DON'T LIKE LEAVING A JOB UNFINISHED. MY ORIGINAL TARGET IS STILL IN THERE.
WHERE THE HELL IS SHE?
THAT IS AN IMPOSSIBLE SHOT.
FOR YOU.

BANG
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
WHHHHHHH
OPT
OKAY... WHO ARE WE HUNTING?

COBRA HEADQUARTERS.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS... VOLUNTEER?
HE WAS LOST UNDER PARIS. WANDERING. HAD A BAD RUN IN WITH THE G.I. JOES.
HM.
IT'S DONE.
I'VE WORKED WITH HIM BEFORE. HE'S LOYAL. DANGEROUS. BUT... MISGUIDED AT TIMES.
HE NEEDS DIRECTION. SOMEONE WITH VISION TO AIM HIM. WE CAN GIVE HIM THAT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

MAJOR BLUDD?
THESE NEW EYES ARE PERFECT, MATE.
BETTER THAN EVER.
GOOD. AND IN EXCHANGE, YOU WILL BE LOYAL TO US.
I'LL WORK FOR YOU. DO WHATEVER YOU NEED.
KEEP THAT WITCH, BARONESS AWAY FROM ME. SHE AND I WILL DANCE TOGETHER AGAIN, BUT I THINK...MAYBE IT'S TIME I TRY MY HAND AT SOMETHING NEW.
WELCOME TO COBRA.
BOSS?

I GOT AN UPDATE.
GO, DESTRO. I WANT TO RUN SOME TESTS ON OUR NEW RECRUIT.
YOU AND COBRA COMMANDER ALL BUDDY-BUDDY NOW?
HARDLY, MERCER. BUT I NEED THIS TRUCE TO WORK TO GET AS MUCH INFORMATION OUT OF HIM AS POSSIBLE.
WELL, WE HAVE OURSELVES A PROBLEM.
G.I. JOE HAS THEMSELVES ONE OF THE ROBOTS ON THEIR SIDE. IT'S WORKING WITH THEM.
HM. THAT IS... UNEXPECTED.
AND MIGHT DAMAGE MY LARGER PLANS.
I MAY NEED TO REMOVE COBRA COMMANDER FROM POWER SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU TRY TO TAKE HIM OUT, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE PROBLEMS, BOSS.
A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE ARE LOYAL TO HIM, TOO. THEY LIKE HIS MESSAGE AND HIS VIBE.
TAKE THAT RIPPER GUY. THE COMMANDER KILLED SOME OF HIS CREW, AND THAT GUY IS SO AFRAID OF HIM THAT HE STAYS.
HM. PERHAPS THAT IS THE KEY.
YOU AND I DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO THE COMMANDER...

"WE MERELY NEED TO HELP HIS ENEMIES FIND HIM FIRST..."
12

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

Daaang, what an impossible shot Jodi made at the end of this issue...and what a great lead in for the next... edition of STRAIGHT SHOOTERS! (See what I did there?) You know who I am by now and you know who my partner in crime is--a great big hello to writer Joshua Williamson!

NIGHT FORCE! Very excited to continue to build out our Night Force roster. Hopefully you can see that we're building to a bigger story with them. One that will surprise you.

And obviously we ended with a new member of COBRA as well...MAJOR BLUDD! Hope you enjoyed the coda in this issue that connected back to the Baroness story. And now onto the letters!

Cooooobraaa!

Hound is under Cobra's control? Getting strong Manchurian Candidate / Devil's Due Autobot H.I.S.S. Tank vibes, hoping he hasn't really turned heel! This epic just keeps unfolding--Issue 10's doing a lot of place setting and I'm all here for it. So many of us have written in about the characters we're waiting for but this issue proves that these characters and situations are still being fleshed out in excellent ways and to add too much into the mix this soon would be a disservice. (But Snakes Eyes and Shipwreck are coming soon, right?)

On the point of the characters, I LOVE that you guys have added the Energon Experience Spotlights in the back matter. Reminds me of the classic Character Profiles recollected in the 80s Order of Battle mini. It would be awesome to see some of these variant cover artists do modern portraits with new file card bios that mirror your narrative! Or is that being saved for a Skybound wave of Classified figures? Hmmm...

Until we meet again!
Mark J. Schultis

Thanks for writing in, Mark, and Hound's not under Cobra control--did I miss something?! And, boy, wouldn't a line of Skybound figures be cool?

Oh man, we should do that! Evil Hound! I mean if Duke ever finds out about Hound he'll probably see him as an enemy, soooooooo, we'll see!

We saw it all the time, but yeah we have a plan to introduce everyone.

Energon Universe Classified figures are the dream!

Yo Ben & Josh!

I am loving the latest arc of G.I. Joe. It is great that the Duke/ Cobra Commander art tag team of Reilly and Milana has continued on into the main Joe book and we get to see both artists knocking it out of the park. I hope we continue to see more from Andrea Milana in the pages of the EU books. Plus, spectacular news to hear Tom Reilly is back on the book with Dreadnok War! Plus twice monthly! What a gift!

Both Andrea and Tom are amazing artists that bring different things to the series. Just amazing work. I love working with them so I'm glad you like their work, too. And now we have Marco joining the team!

I'm enjoying the wider Energon Universe but I do have questions. There seems to be a giant army sporting G.I. Joe logos on their uniforms led by General Flagg in the pages of Transformers (who we previously saw in the Destro series)--including Doc. How does this other G.I. Joe team tie in with Duke and Flint's team? Is there a 3rd Joe faction?

Keep reading! ;)

And secondly how do the events of Transformers, including destruction of major cities feed back into the events of the Joe book. Given that the team was formed to combat the robot menaces--with Duke's vow to "destroy them all", there seems to be only a small reference to these events so far--1 page of Cobra Commander and Destro watching footage. Can we expect some other response from Duke in this book?

Yo Joe!
Mark "Talking Joe" Seddon

Thanks for the support, Mark, and for writing in! Keep reading TRANSFORMERS to see what General Flagg and his crew are up to. While Duke and the Joes are aware of what's been happening

in Chicago and elsewhere, the reality is G.I. Joe isn't ready to combat giant robots yet and are still largely outgunned by Cobra. We're playing the long game with the Energon Universe so I promise you, it will all become clear over time.

All these pieces will come together. Like Ben said...we play a long game here, but some of the clues that connect things together will happen soon...

Hi team, I've never written to a G.I. JOE comic before, despite reading them on and off since the Marvel days as a small kid. I loved the Beach Head issue, he's my favourite character, so I hope we see a lot more of his adventures, but he's not the reason I'm writing in.

I also love Beach Head, glad you liked it!

WHAT THE HECK HAVE YOU DONE TO RAPTOR?! He has no right being this cool, and I absolutely love it. He was such an immediate stand-out and now with #9 he's proved he's not just a mere annoyance, he's a deadly opponent with many tricks up his sleeves, and you'd best take him seriously. He's such an inspired update, I wish they'd make this version in the Classified figure line. I'd buy it in a heartbeat.

I believe Hasbro did make this version of Raptor. That was what we based most of his look in the book on. I have that figure here in my office. A few years ago when we first saw his new Classified design I told Skybound we had to find a place for him asap. I always thought he had a cool look, and bit into the more weird G.I. Joe vibes the cartoon had. And a part of G.I. Joe that I loved. He rules.

#9 was such a great issue. I'm constantly waiting for Anastasia to defect, yet you seem intent on defying expectations, an aspect of the book I'm really digging. I also love Hound and Clutch, they're a great duo, I can't wait for them to get an A plot.

Please keep up the good work, and please give us more updates like Raptor. I want to be hit in the chest with those "Woah!" moments again and again.

Craig Prenzler
Australia

Thanks for the note, Craig, and I totally agree about how awesome Raptor was in the arc and you can thank Joshua and Andrea for that! And I'm also glad you called out the Clutch and Hound plot--I'm really enjoying every panel we have of this team-up.

More Clutch and Hound soon! I'm so glad you wrote in. It's an honor that our series was the first one to get a letter from you!

Hello G.I. Joe team,

First off, as a Transformers fan with (formerly) only a passing interest in Joe, Energon Universe has really made me see the appeal. All of the complex schemes of different groups tangling together to form one huge web of world-shaking espionage keeps me guessing on who's next move will change the game.

Absolutely loving the interactions between Clutch and Hound, really nails the interspecies bond that's so important to Transformers.

Also, Raptor is simultaneously hilarious and terrifying in a way that is very fitting of the often silly yet brutally efficient birds I love so much.

Lastly, Cover Girl and Baroness, the ending of issue 9 won't stop me from asking: When's the wedding?

Arren Meuchel

Thanks for the kind words, Arren, and I could see Baroness and Cover Girl going into business for themselves as private investors or fixers. THAT would be a fun book!

I'm hearing we need more Raptor! I'll figure it out. We'll get him back.

And that's a wrap, folks...buckle up because in 30 days DREADNOK WAR begins and trust me, you're not ready for it! Tom Reilly and Jordie Bellaire return to double ship maybe the biggest event YET in the Energone Universe!

-Ben

Dreadnok War is NUTS. It's a bonkers story that we've wanted to tell from the very start. It's a LOT of action and big moments. Some surprises that will change what you think you know about the Energon Universe! Can't wait! See you next month!

Thank you to everyone for writing and continuing to support us! Yo Joe!

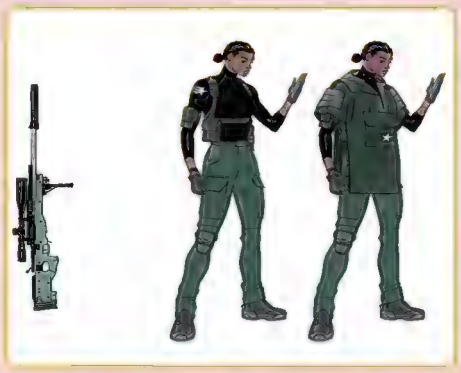
-Joshua Williamson

ENERGON EXPERIENCE

Don't tell Duke, but I'm READY liking the Night Force team that Flint is building. After saving Beach Head from the potential nightmare of becoming an instructor to new budding Shooter out of a maximum security prison...who could be next on the list? Maybe it's time Hawk get a little muscle? Lastly, what IS Hawk's motivation in having a second team on call...only time will tell!

B-m!

Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor

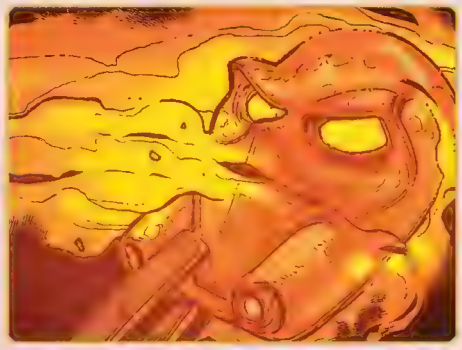


CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: *Jodie Craig*

WHERE: *Elite sniper and new member of Night Force.*

WHAT: *After winning several gold medals at the Olympics, Jodie joined the U.S. military and quickly became one of the top snipers in Special Forces. How she found herself in a Darklonian prison is a tale for another day!*



THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK!

While Shooter was the big character debut in this gritty issue, it also features the FIRST APPEARANCE of Darklon sporting his hot, new mask! And by hot, I mean literally--remember the last time we saw Darklon in DESTRO #5? Ssssmokin'!

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: Marco Foderà CRUSHED it on art this issue and so it's time for the Energon Experience initiation--Marco, if you had a G.I. JOE codename, what would it be?

A: I would chose FIRE STARTER because, metaphorically, I started this adventure with G.I. JOE by quickly throwing myself into action.

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #25 AVAILABLE 10/8
- ☐ G.I. JOE #12 AVAILABLE 10/15
- ☐ VOID RIVALS #24 AVAILABLE 10/22

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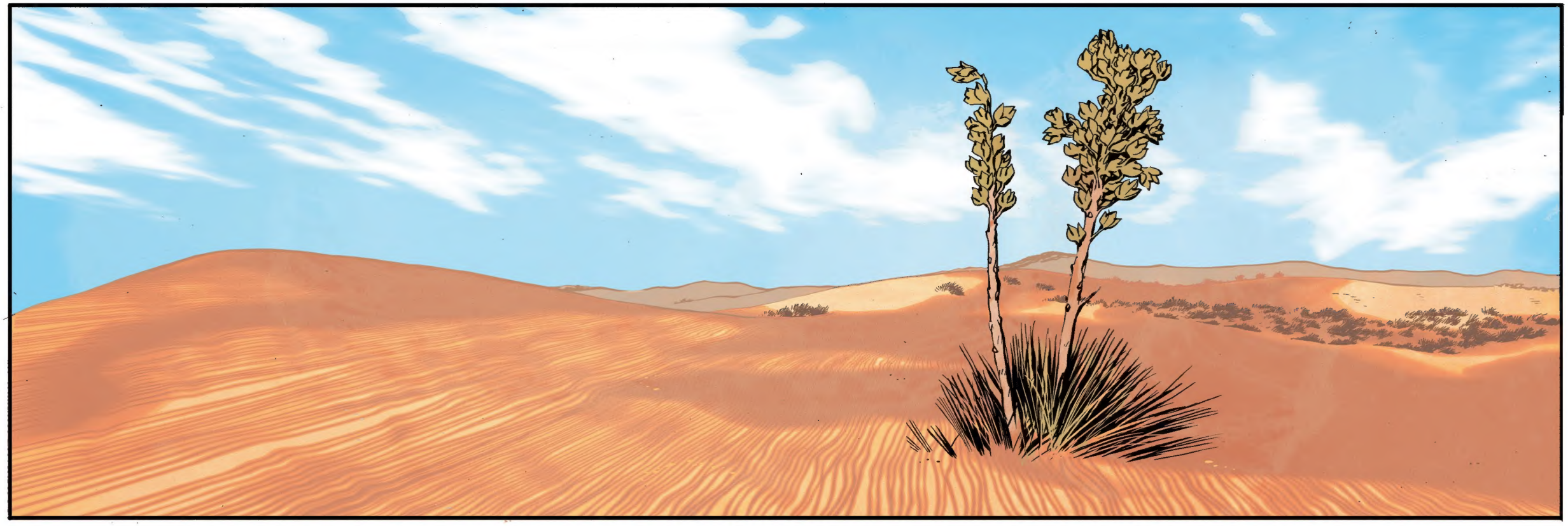

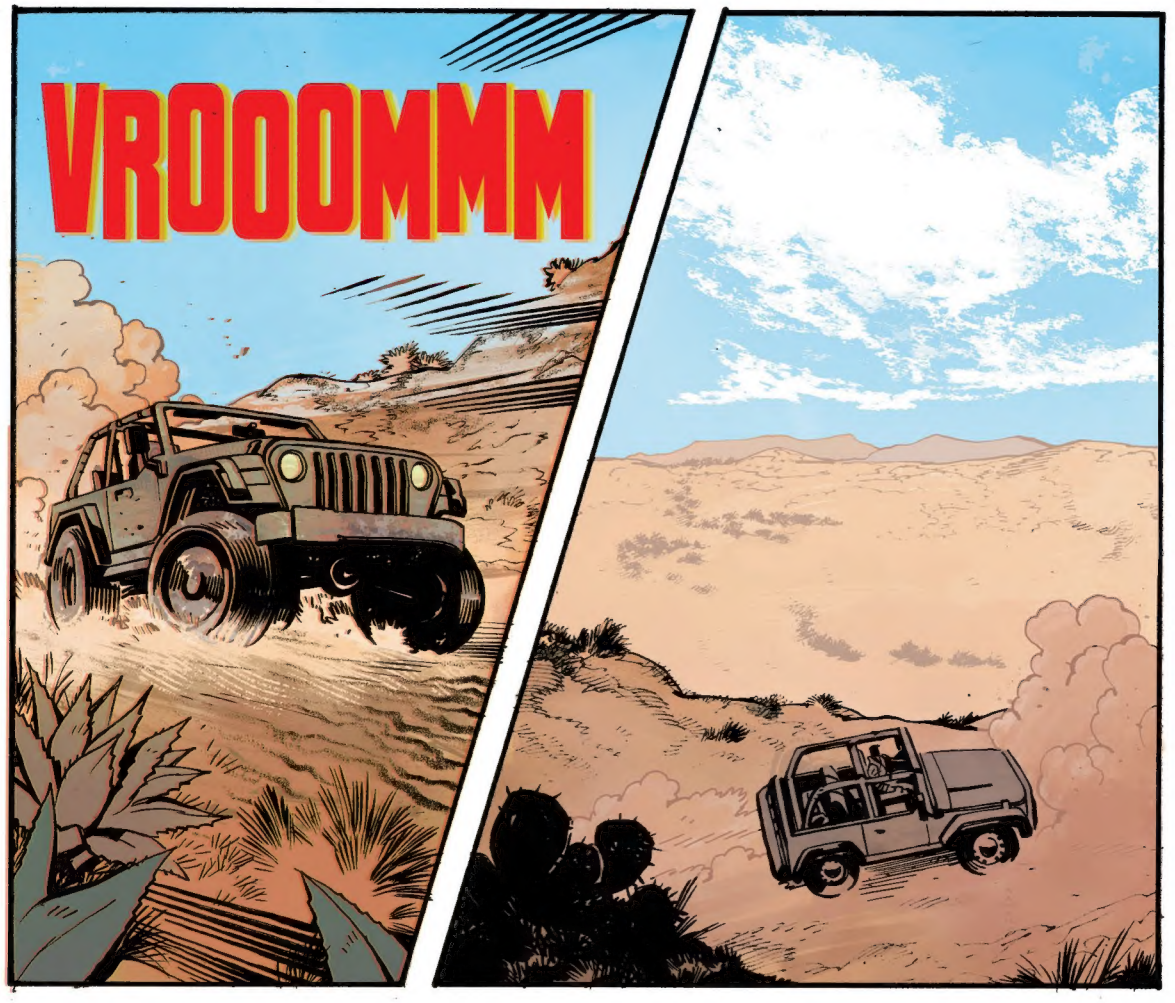
VROOOMMM

TO BE CONTINUED IN G.I. JOE #13

G.I. JOE

#13

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON TOM REILLY JORDIE BELLAIRE

RELEASING TWICE MONTHLY STARTING NOVEMBER 2025

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